

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. After Rumania came under Communist domination, the amounts of nutritious foods available for public consumption steadily decreased. The control and the direction of the farmer by the Communists and the strict rationing of nutritious foods were the most important elements in the control of the people. The production quotas to be met by the farmer were steadily increasing and more types of foodstuffs were being included in the quotas from year to year. Crihalma (4555N-2512E) and its surrounding area are a good example. Until 1950, quotas had to be met by the farmer on wheat, corn, potatoes, hay, cereals, et cetera. After 1950, additional quotas were given to the farmer on meat, milk, wool, vegetables, and various other products. The closer the farmers lived to the larger cities, the more strict the authorities were on the fulfillment of the quotas. The farmers occasionally sold products which were not included in the quota demands, in order to have the money to buy the products which were demanded by the authorities so that they could meet the necessary quota to hand over to the state.

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2. The control and collection of the quotas were carried out by members of the Securitatea (Security Police), the militia and other Communist authorities. The result of the quota demands by the State on the farmer was the nearly complete absence of the necessities of life for those farmers who did not cooperate and produce to meet the quotas. The State left little of the farmer's produce for his own consumption and sale. Since the farmer had little to sell in the towns and cities in the way of nutritious foods, the town and city dwellers were unable to obtain the nutritious foods necessary for good health. If people were known to be against the Regime, it was impossible for them to obtain food and clothing ration cards. Therefore the small amounts of nutritious foods on the market were available only to those who showed no signs of discontent.
3. With the exception of the Communists, who were able to obtain more of the nutritious foods, the entire population of Rumania was undernourished. Many of the people in the cities and villages ate only twice a day. Meat was eaten once or twice a week. Meat was more scarce in the villages while the cities or larger towns were unable to obtain milk and fats, such as oil, butter and lard.
4. Malnutrition was found most frequently among the children. The number of cases of tuberculosis and rickets was on the increase. 25X1X 25X1X [redacted] aware of this from [redacted] and from reports of other medics. The mortality rate of children was also on the increase. Despite this increase, the propaganda sent forth by the Regime was that the Rumanian people were living better than ever before and that the mortality rate was decreasing because of the availability of nutritious foods. It was general knowledge among Rumanian medical men that because of malnutrition the mortality rate, sickness, and diseases were increasing.
5. In the Army, the soldiers were poorly fed with regard to both quality and quantity. It was brought out in the annual medical conference in 1951 in Brasov that the number of cases of tuberculosis had increased and that the mortality rate from this disease in particular was increasing. Most cases of TB in the military were contracted after the soldier had entered the service. Cases were also found among the officer personnel. The chief cause of all cases was malnutrition. A medical organization was formed in Rumania to combat the disease but because of the lack of proper medicines and proper foods, this organization had not met with any success.
6. There was a large increase of stomach disorders (ulcers and gastritis) among the military. This was attributed to the poor quality of foodstuffs. A very poor grade of corn flour was used in the making of bread and "mamalega" which is similar to corn bread. 25X1X The [redacted] received many complaints from the soldiers on the poor food and the results of its consumption, which caused much discontent among the soldiers. Most complained that they had entered the service as healthy men and had become sick and undernourished because of the food situation.
7. The majority of the Rumanian people realized that the bulk of nutritious food was being shipped to the USSR. Not knowing what to do about the situation, they felt that only through war would conditions change. There have been isolated cases where farmers have burned their produce rather than hand it over to the State. This has occurred rarely, however, and undoubtedly severe punishment was dealt the farmers.